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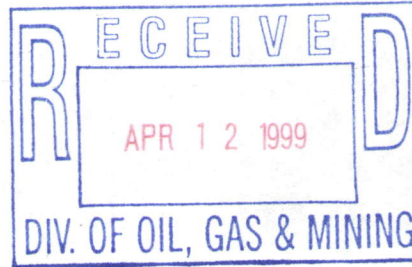


United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501

Brian Tilley
Quarry/Mill Manager
United States Gypsum Company
P.O. Box 570160
Sigurd, Utah 84657



3809
UTU-76643
(UT-070)

APR - 9 1999

Dear Mr. Tilley:

On April 1, 1999, this office received a letter from United States Gypsum Company (USGC) rescinding a Plan of Operations (POO) dated June 3, 1998, and received by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on June 9, 1998. The POO involved a proposed quarry site and construction of an access road located north of Kimball Draw in Emery County, Utah. USGC was notified by the BLM on July 31, 1998, of the deficiencies in the POO which would have to be corrected in order for the BLM to proceed with preparing an environmental impact statement. A response to these deficiencies was never provided by USGC. According to our records, there was no other activity which occurred with regard to the POO. Therefore, the file (UTU-73777) pertaining to the POO will be closed.

Your letter dated 4/1/99 also enclosed a notice which was assigned serial number UTU-76643. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence. This notice involves a gypsum quarry site located to the south of Kimball Draw. We have reviewed the notice and have determined that it is deficient with respect to some of the information required by the Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 3809 and 3715. Therefore, we cannot accept the notice until the following deficiencies are corrected:

1. Describe the proposed activities within the quarry area with sufficient details to determine the amount of surface disturbance which would occur on the ground. A detailed site map delineating the size of the quarry, truck loading area, facilities, parking areas, and the location of stockpiled topsoil and overburden would be extremely helpful in comprehending the proposed activities.
2. Provide a complete description and location of the access route to be utilized. Will the existing access require improvements, maintenance, or widening?
3. Furnish more information about how all equipment would be utilized in the mining operation. What equipment would be utilized for road maintenance, improvements, or construction? How would the gypsum be mined and loaded into haul trucks? Identify the number and size of trucks required for haulage of ore, fuel, water, or waste and how many truck loads or round trips per day. Describe all other equipment that would be utilized in the operation.
4. Describe and provide the location of any temporary or permanent structures that would be placed on the site. Also, provide the location and purpose for any enclosures, fences, gates, and signs intended to exclude the general public.
5. Provide a statement that reclamation of all areas disturbed will be completed to the standard described in the regulations at 43 CFR 3809.1-3(d) and that reasonable measures will be taken to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the Federal lands during operations.

In addition to the CFR deficiencies listed above, we have some additional questions that may help us better respond to public concerns and ensure that the operation would not result in any unnecessary or undue degradation. Your cooperation in answering these questions would be greatly appreciated.

- Would you provide a description for the use of the borrow pit impoundment area delineated on the 7.5 minute map which was submitted as part of your notice?
- How would development of the quarry proceed on an annual basis? How much overburden and topsoil would be initially removed and where would it be stockpiled? What would be the production rate of gypsum? How would reclamation proceed along with development of the quarry? What is the schedule for reclamation? How long is the operation expected to last?
- How many personnel would be involved in the operation and where would personal vehicles be parked?
- What measures would be taken to protect the public from hazardous conditions resulting from the mining operations? Would any fuels, lubricants, blasting components, or hazardous materials be stored on the site?

If you have any questions, please contact Dean Nyffeler of my staff at (435) 636-3615.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Manus
Field Manager

cc: Anthony A. Gallegos
Senior Reclamation Specialist
State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
Brent Northrup (UT-060)
Bureau of Land Management
Moab Field Office
82 East Dogwood
Moab, Utah 84532